

The Honorable Michael K. Powell  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies. The local channels here in the Joplin Missouri area have such varying strengths that it is impossible to get a consistent quality picture utilizing the same antenna system.

The merger will solve this problem and I would be more incline to watch these stations, where as now I stick mainly to the satellite system where I can depend on good quality picture from all stations. Also Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring me not only affordable high-speed Internet access, but also my only option for high-speed Internet access.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Robert Thompson  
405 S Prigmore Ave  
Joplin, MO 64801